GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4248
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
. PRIME MINISTER S RURAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS SCHEME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows Scheme for improving programme delivery with an aim to reduce the developmental and governance deficits in backward and remote districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features and objectives of the scheme, scope of work of the selected Fellows, selection process, year-wise number of Fellows selected; and

(c) the other schemes/programmes initiated/proposed by the Government to harness the potential of young professionals for the development of the rural and backward areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government has launched the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows Scheme since September 2011. This scheme enables bright young women and men with academic and professional expertise to get involved in Gover- nment initiatives for poverty reduction and improving the lives of people in rural India.

This scheme covers 111 districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Tenure of Fellowship is two years. PMRD Fellows are required to spend at least one year in public service after completion of Fellowship with respective State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLM). PMRD Fellows are also required to participate in a post graduate degree program through distance learning and contact sessions leading to a master's degree in development practice offered by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.

Fellows work under the close supervision of the District Collector. They help the District Administration to improve the programme delivery and interface with the marginalized sections of population.

Fellows are selected through an India-wide open competition. Selection process and training are organized by the Tata Insti- tute of Social Sciences.

First batch of 156 Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows were recruited in the year 2012. The Second batch of 160 Fellows has been recruited in the year 2013.

(c) As per available information, there is no proposal with the Government to launch another scheme to harness the potential of young professionals for the development of the rural and backward areas.